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# ALLIANCES IN ACTION

## SONATEL FOUNDATION GIRLS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

### DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

Education is a key to economic development, yet the disparities between genders is still great. Of the 10 countries worldwide with the lowest ratio of girls to boys in school, eight are located in West and Central Africa. In the countries of Niger, Chad, Burkina Faso, Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Benin and Guinea, the gross enrollment ratios of girls as a percent of boys range from 63 to 75. In Senegal itself, only 15 per cent of girls are able to go to secondary school--and later in life there are only 6 literate adult women for every 10 literate men. Improving education for all, and increasing educational equity for girls is imperative.

### PARTNER CHALLENGE

Sonatel Foundation, the telecommunication's firm philanthropic foundation, seeks to provide women in Senegal with opportunities to complete their education. By providing scholarships and leadership training to women, the Foundation is helping to remove barriers to success for women while also building the company's brand name and reputation in key markets.

### APPROACH

USAID and the Sonatel Foundation are partnering on a five-year alliance to provide 300 scholarships to Senegalese girls in high school. Recipients are selected from disadvantaged families in rural communities where there are often no schools beyond primary grade levels. Students continue their education through high school with the hopes of going on the college and becoming leaders in their communities and valuable members of the workforce.

### PARTNER



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### RESULTS

- 300 students will receive scholarships that cover school fees for three years in addition to annual stipends to defray costs for transportation, books and school supplies, remedial tutoring, and personal expenses.
- To date, scholarship recipients averaged 73% success rate on high school exams, much higher than the 48.6% national average.
- Students will also benefit from leadership training programs.

### FAST FACTS

START: 2004    END: 2009

PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS:  
\$260,000 from USAID  
\$260,000 from Sonatel

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